

HAMPTON

CITY PAGE

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YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

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Citizen academies offered on police and city codes

Find out more about your police division

Are you interested in law enforcement? How about improving community relations? Consider signing up for the Hampton Citizen Police Academy. Students have the opportunity to become familiar with the day-to-day operations of the Police Division and to gain a better understanding of the policies and laws that guide an officer's decisions.

The spring academy will be held each Tuesday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. beginning February 19 and continuing through May 14.

Presentations will be made by police division personnel and the Commonwealth's Attorney on the division's mission, ethics, personnel and hiring, laws, crime prevention efforts, community oriented policing, the Communications Center, the Emergency Operations Center, the Marine Patrol, K-9, bike and SWAT Units, officer safety techniques, and investigations.

The academy is offered free of charge to Hampton residents and employees. Students must be at least 21 years old and have a good background. Anyone interested in attending the Citizen Police Academy should contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 727-6574 for an application.

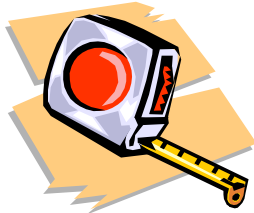


I didn't know I needed a permit for this fence ...

We've all heard stories about home improvements gone awry, so make sure you have the scoop on the city's codes, zoning and more! The Codes Compliance Department is now accepting applications for its Citizen Code Academy. The free classes begin February 25 and end April 29. The course meets once a week at 6:30 p.m. at Sandy Bottom Nature Park.

Students in the class will discuss many of the codes enforced by the Codes Compliance Department (Property Maintenance, Zoning, City Codes, Environmental, New Construction). Also discussed will be how the different city departments interact with each other and how Codes fits into the day-to-day operation of each neighborhood.

So sign up today and tell your friends! Please contact Ed Mason at 727-6243 as soon as possible to get your name on the roster.



Want a fast way to get city news and information? Hampton eNews is the answer. eNews offers FREE e-mail briefs about what's happening in Hampton city government and how it can affect you.

Choose what you want – up to nine different topics. Everything from business information to volunteer opportunities and more.

Hampton eNews — the easy way to stay in touch with how your city tax dollars are at work in your community.

Sign-up at www.eneews.hampton.gov and be among the first in your neighborhood to have the city and its information at your fingertips.

Spencer joins City Council

Hampton City Council voted at their January 23 meeting to appoint former Councilman and Mayor Joe Spencer to fill the remainder of the term of former Councilman Tom Gear. Gear resigned earlier in January to take a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. Mayor Mamie Locke supported Spencer's appointment, noting that he "will bring history, knowledge and experience to the position."



Joseph H. Spencer II

Asked about his priorities as a council member, Spencer responded, "To find a way to broaden our tax base and remove the tax burden from the property owner. We need to encourage revenue growth for the ever-increasing cost of services and schools."

He added the need for the community to invest in its future. "We must find a way to have our state leadership understand and appreciate the plight of its urban areas. A dedicated, dependable revenue stream must be allocated to the localities, not just the unfunded mandates."

Spencer says he enjoys a good working relationship with other council members and that he will continue to be "open and available" to all citizens of the community.

Holiday schedule

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday. Hampton's Customer Call Center will remain open to answer your questions — just dial 311 or 727-8311.

Curbside collection normally scheduled for Feb. 18 will be collected on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Youth grants available

Want to do a community service project? ... But don't have the money? Apply for a service-learning grant from Hampton Youth Commission.

Grants will be awarded to groups of middle or high school-aged youth for up to \$500. Proposals are due March 8, and projects must be completed by April 30 as part of an observance of National Youth Service Day which is the week of April 22-26.

In partnership with the commission, Alternatives is offering free training for club sponsors and teachers (certificate renewal credit offered for teachers). The free tool kit guides attendees through conducting a successful service learning project and connecting the project to SOLs. The training is Feb. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m., call 838-2330 for details and to register.

For a grant application or information, call 728-3285 or e-mail youthcom@hampton.gov.



Scene around town



Have you seen the billboard presented by the Citizens' Unity Commission? It's on I-64 across from Hampton University.

To find out more about the CUC and its programs, call 727-1379, or visit their Web site at www.hampton.gov/unity.



A clean sweep

Hampton's street sweeping program removes up to

3,000 tons of debris a year from our streets. Sweeping prevents pollution in local creeks and rivers. Help the sweepers out on the scheduled day by removing obstacles such as cars, curbside collection items, portable basketball goals and low hanging branches over the street.

If you're not sure when your neighborhood is swept, please call Hampton's Customer Call Center at 311 for the schedule.

Calendar

FEBRUARY 11

Planning Commission

Regular meeting, 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6140.

Neighborhood Commission

Regular meeting, 6 p.m., Kenneth Wallace Neighborhood Resource Center, 2315 Victoria Boulevard, 727-6460, www.hamptonvaneighborhoods.org.

FEBRUARY 13

City Council

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6315. Agendas on Web site: hampton.gov/council. Meetings broadcast live; re-broadcasts Feb. 14 at 10 a.m., and Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. on The City Channel TV-47.

FEBRUARY 14

Citizens' Unity Commission

Regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Unity Room, Carmel Center, 136 Kings Way, 727-1379, unity@hampton.gov.

FEBRUARY 19

The Blind Boys of Alabama and John Hammond's Wicked Grin

Since 1939, The Blind Boys of Alabama have thrilled audiences around the world with irresistible, inspirational Gospel songs. The group's brand new album, Spirit of the Century, which is attracting huge media attention and critical acclaim, finds these venerable vocalists in peak form. Joining the Blind Boys of Alabama in this special engagement is blues legend John Hammond. His latest release Wicked Grin, produced by Tom Waits, is fast becoming a classic. It is a rich and dynamic synthesis of the warm, rootsy style which Hammond has perfected during his illustrious career which now spans almost 40 years.

Catch both acts at The American Theatre, 8 p.m., 722-ARTS, www.hampton.gov/arts.



FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3

Circus

Don't miss the "greatest show on earth," Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at Hampton Coliseum. Call for times and ticket prices, 838-4203, or visit their Web site at www.hamptoncoliseum.org.

We want to hear from you!

**What do you think about City Page?
Does it have the news you want?
When you want it?**

Let us know what you like, what you don't like and ideas for what you think we could do differently. Call us at 727-6893, or e-mail pubcomm@hampton.gov.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Making a difference in Hampton's families

Hampton's Healthy Families Partnership is turning 10 years old this year and we are planning to celebrate with a year long celebration called "A Decade of Difference".

Started in 1992 with a handful of staff the partnership has grown in size and in the number of programs being offered to Hampton residents. Our first programs were: Healthy Start - our home visitation program, Parent Education Classes and the Young Family Centers - our parent resource centers in the libraries. In addition to our core programs we now offer expanded services for Healthy Start, more than 30 different types of parenting classes ranging from prenatal programs to classes just for dads to bilingual classes, playgroups for families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and Welcome Baby - our latest program addition which welcomes each new baby with a backpack full of parent resource information and helpful tools to raise a happy healthy child in Hampton.

Our "Decade of Difference" celebration will include recognition events for staff and volunteers who have made a significant impact on our success, expanded events for our program graduates, a kickoff for the new alumni newsletter, and a workshop for citizens to learn more about the Healthy Families Partnership. These are just a few of the activities scheduled. Surprise events and activities will be announced throughout the year.

Hampton's Healthy Families Partnership is proud to be reaching this milestone and wants to share it with all the citizens who have been a part of our success. Please take advantage of our nationally recognized programs and join in our year of celebration.



Ask 311!

Q. Where can I purchase my 2002 Hampton city decal, and when is the deadline.

A. Hampton city decals must be displayed on your vehicle by midnight Feb. 15. You may purchase your decal at the following locations: City 1-Stop, located in Coliseum Mall; Hampton Treasurer's Office, located at 100 Old Hampton Lane - Downtown Hampton; at any Old Point National Bank branch in Hampton; and if you are military at Langley Air Force Base and Fort Monroe.

Q. Will the Hampton Treasurer's Office be open on any weekends in February as they have in the past?

The Treasurer's Office will be open on Saturday, Feb. 9. The main office in downtown Hampton will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and City 1-Stop in Coliseum Mall will be open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. City 1-Stop will process decals only; taxes may not be paid there. City 1-Stop and the Treasurer's Office are closed on Feb. 18.

Q. As a Hampton non-Virginia military resident, where can I obtain my decal?

Langley AFB Pass & Registration Bldg. #15, Rm. 103 - Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Phone: 764-7770. Requirements: Military ID Card, Leave & Earning Statement (LES), and Vehicle Registration.

Fort Monroe MP Building T196. Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 - 4:30 p.m. Phone: 788-2887. Requirements: LES, Military ID Card, and vehicle registration.

Hampton's 311 Customer Call Center will provide answers to frequently asked questions in this column of City Page. To reach the center, dial 3-1-1; on cell phones or outside of Hampton dial 727-8311.



Tune In!

Watch Spotlight: Healthy Families on The City Channel TV-47 at 9 a.m., 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. on weekends. The 30-minute program focuses on city programs and partnerships that offer services to Hampton families.

